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101

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,492	10/31/2003	Jon Sinclair Olsen	A-8793	7703
7590	03/09/2005			
Christopher J. McDonald HOFFMAN, WASSON & GITLER, P.C. Suite 522 2361 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202			EXAMINER	CHIU, RALEIGH W
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3711	
			DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,492	OLSEN, JON SINCLAIR	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Raleigh Chiu	3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 15 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8,10-12,16 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 9,13,14,17,21 and 22 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,696,477 (Tsuzuki).

Regarding claims 1-3, 10 and 11, Figures 1 and 2 of Tsuzuki show multiple base structures 8 with planar playing surfaces 8a; Figure 2 shows the base structures removably securable to a game board 18. Playing pieces 4,14 correspond to the recited non-

Art Unit: 3711

uniformly shaped playing pieces that are inherently capable of being stacked onto the playing surfaces.

Regarding claim 4, Figure 2 further shows a game insert 6 securable to game board 18.

Regarding claims 16, 18 and 19, starting the Tsuzuki game requires assembling base structures 8 on a surface, providing the playing pieces 4,14 and placing them on playing surfaces 8a on base structure 8.

Regarding claim 21, Figure 2 shows four base structures 8 and four playing pieces 4.

4. Claims 5, 6, 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuzuki as applied above.

Regarding claim 5, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to place the Tsuzuki game on legs so children would not have to play on the ground; it is well-known in the art to play board games on tabletops.

Regarding claim 6, table legs are commonly known to be removable.

Regarding claims 12 and 20, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to color the Tsuzuki playing pieces for improved game appeal; it also would have been obvious to color all playing pieces 4 the same color and all playing pieces 14 a different color for game element consistency; it is

Art Unit: 3711

old and well-known in the gaming art to decorate game pieces in such a manner.

5. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuzuki as applied above in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,502,819 (Rieber et al., hereinafter Rieber).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Rieber teaches that game tables are known in the art to have storage compartments under a main playing area. As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a storage area below the Tsuzuki game as modified above to conveniently store the game pieces and legs when not in use. To select features from the prior art to effect results expected from these features is within the purview of 35 USC § 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 9, 13, 14, 17, 21 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claim 15 is allowed.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raleigh Chiu whose telephone number is (703) 308-2247. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich, can be reached on (703) 308-1513.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Art Unit: 3711

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Raleigh W. Chiu
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3700

RWC:dei:feif
3 March 2005